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*Vietnam: The Vietnamese Communists have again publicly endorsed the idea of a coalition government in South Vietnam while castigating Saigon for blocking avenues to peace.

In a propaganda broadcast beamed to South Vietnam on 8 January, Hanoi denounced President Thieu's recent criticism of any moves toward the formation of a coalition government with the Communists. A Liberation Front broadcast on the same day interpreted the recent suspension of a Saigon newspaper as evidence that the Thieu government was "trembling" in the face of growing popular support for the plank in the Front platform calling for a "broad national democratic union."

In its efforts to promote the concept of a coalition government as a feasible alternative to a continuation of the Vietnamese struggle, Hanoi so far appears more interested in fanning the uneasiness generated over this issue in the South than in spelling out clearly its own interpretation of the concept. Moreover, there are no indications as yet that the North Vietnamese are attempting to couple their discussion of the coalition concept with their efforts to appear more forthcoming on talks with the United States.

On the military front, Communist forces are continuing to apply pressure against allied positions in the Saigon area.

In the fourth major attack in the past six days within a 30-mile radius of Saigon, a battalion-size Viet Cong force assaulted the forward command post of a US Army battalion in Hau Nghia Province on 10 January. Although five Americans were killed and 28 seriously wounded, the Communist attempt to overrun the US position was not successful. [redacted]

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